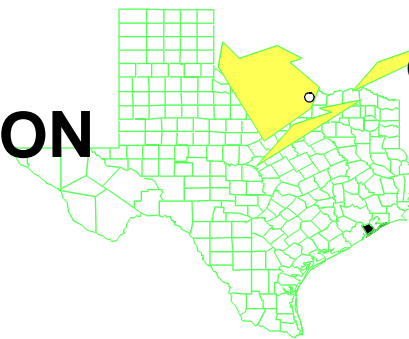


TEX TIN CORPORATION TEXAS

EPA ID# TXD062113329



EPA REGION 6
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

09

Galveston County

Other Names:
Gulf Chemical Metallurgical

Updated: 06/06/00

Site Description

Location:

- ! The Tex Tin site is located in a mixed industrial/petrochemical/residential area at the intersection of State Highway 146 and FM 519 in Texas City, Galveston County, Texas.
- ! The site is approximately 10 miles north of Galveston, Texas, and the City of LaMarque is located approximately one mile northwest of the site.

Population:

- ! An estimated 25,000 people live within a three-mile radius of the site.

Setting:

- ! Tex Tin is an inactive tin and copper smelter.
- ! The 170-acre site contains numerous waste handling or disposal areas, including five waste water treatment ponds, open and closed acid ponds, slag piles, an inactive (permitted) landfill containing low level radioactive wastes, and an inactive hydrocarbon recovery facility (Morchem).
- ! Industrial waste disposal facilities and marsh areas are located south and southwest of the site.

Hydrology:

- ! The shallow Chicot Aquifer is comprised of interbedded sedimentary deposits of sand, gravel silt and clay, and extends from about 60 feet to about 1,000 feet below the site.
- ! The Chicot aquifer is overlaid by shallow transmissive zones which are not utilized for drinking water supplies.

Wastes and Volumes

Surface Soils

- ! Surface soils have been impacted by constituents released at site.
- ! Major contaminants identified are arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead and nickel.
- ! Radionuclides and low-level gamma radiation above background levels have been detected.

Subsurface Soils

- ! Subsurface soils (generally in the upper 2 to 5 feet) have been impacted by site activities.
- ! Major contaminants identified were arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead and nickel.

Former Acid Ponds

- ! Fill and sediment in ponds exceed background concentrations for various inorganic constituents and have a low pH.
- ! Radionuclides above background levels, and volatile organic compounds, were identified in some of the former ponds.

Slag Piles

- ! Piles have high concentrations of inorganic constituents.
- ! Several piles were identified that had high levels of gamma radiation and levels of radium-226 above background.

Ground Water

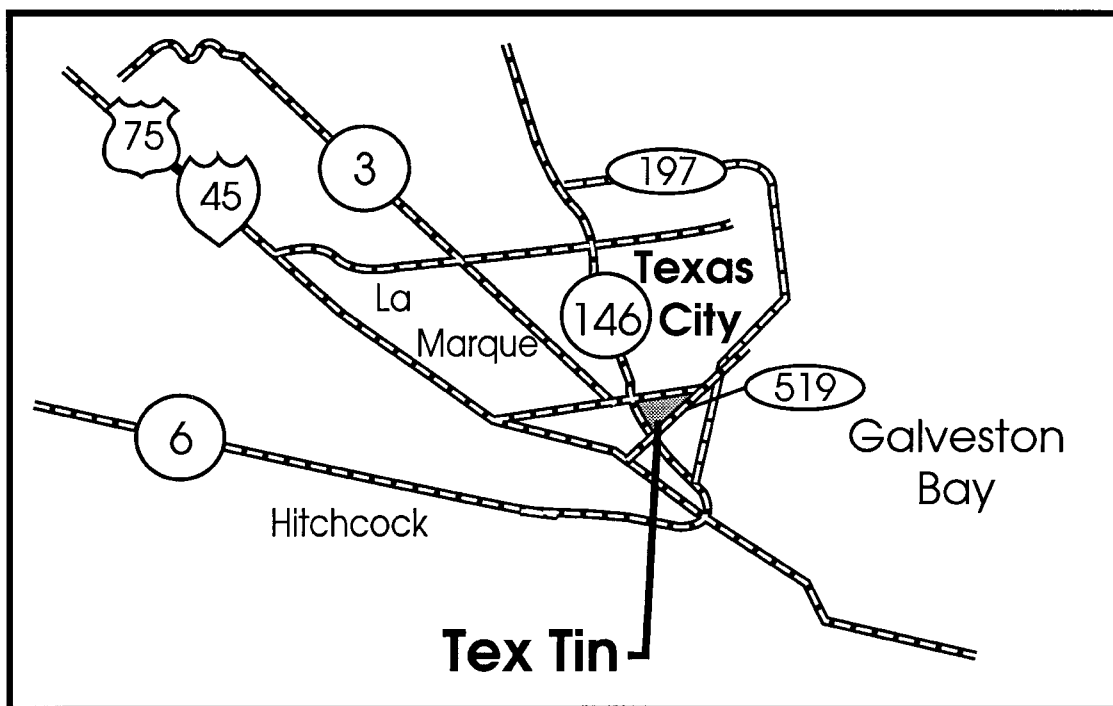
- ! Shallow transmissive zone has been impacted by site activities. Inorganic constituents (antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel and selenium) and several organic constituents exceed MCLs and up gradient ground water concentrations. Radium-226 and radium-228 exceed MCLs in some shallow ground water samples.
- ! Medium transmissive zone has been impacted by inorganic constituents to a lesser degree than the shallow transmissive zone. Concentrations of various inorganic constituents exceed maximum concentration limits (MCLs).
- ! The deep transmissive zone appears to have low levels of contamination with some inorganic constituents slightly above MCLs.

Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 50.00
Proposed Date: 6/17/96
Final Date: 9/18/98
NPL Update: Vol. 63 No.181

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

- ! The site was originally developed as a tin smelting operation by the U.S. Government during World War II. Wah Chang Corporation bought the site after the war and sold it in 1970 to Associated Metals and Minerals which operated the site under the name of Gulf Chemical and Metallurgical Company until 1984, when the name was changed to Tex Tin Corporation.
- ! Tin was processed at the facility from 1941 until 1989; secondary copper smelting began in 1989. All smelting operations ceased in April 1991.
- ! In 1969 AMOCO Chemical Co. purchased about 27 acres on the eastern portion of the site.
- ! Amoco Chemical Company and Tex Tin Corporation entered into an Administrative Order on Consent in 1990 to perform a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS).
- ! The RI field work was concluded in August 1992, and development of the RI report, the Risk Assessment report, and the FS report began. The RI report was finalized in August 1993.

Amoco did not complete the FS report.

- ! Tex Tin Corporation challenged the NPL listing in Federal Appeals Court. Oral arguments were presented May 23, 1991.
- ! On June 14, 1991, the Court issued its determination that EPA had not provided sufficient information to support the conclusion made in the HRS package that arsenic could reasonably be released from waste piles.
- ! The Court remanded the NPL listing to EPA for "a reasoned explanation" of why arsenic is likely to be released from the waste piles.
- ! A hearing on the NPL listing status was held on April 5, 1993.
- ! On May 11, 1993, The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered Tex Tin deleted from the NPL.
- ! In a June 18, 1993, letter from EPA to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), the site was referred to the TNRCC. TNRCC subsequently designed a special study to collect data to evaluate the site under the federal Hazard Ranking System (HRS).
- ! TNRCC completed the special study and submitted the results to EPA as a draft HRS documentation record. In a letter dated October 5, 1994, TNRCC requested EPA to evaluate the Tex Tin site for re-proposal on the NPL.
- ! The Tex Tin site was re-proposed to the NPL in June 1996. The Tex Tin site was finalized on the NPL on September 18, 1998.

Health Considerations:

- ! Potential human exposure risks include inhalation of particulate from site soils, incidental ingestion of sediments, soils, and shallow ground water, and dermal contact with soils.
- ! Inorganic constituents released at the site have impacted the surface soils, subsurface soils and ground water.
- ! All wells within a 1-mile radius of the site are completed in deeper aquifers where contamination has not been identified.

Other Environmental Risks:

- ! There is a low-level radioactive material buried in a permitted landfill. Radionuclides and low-level gamma radiation were detected on the site during the Remedial Investigation.
- ! Low pH water is leaving the site to the south through Wah Chang ditch.

Record of Decision

Record of Decision for OU No. 1
May 17, 1999

Community Involvement

- ! Community Involvement Plan: Developed 8/90
- ! Open houses and workshops: 4/90, 5/90, 6/90
- ! Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: N/A
- ! ROD Fact Sheet: N/A
- ! Milestone Fact Sheets: 8/88, 5/90, 6/90, 9/90, 12/90, 2/91 (by PRPs), 5/00
- ! Constituency Interest: Residents are primarily concerned with airborne dust contaminants and off-site migration of contamination from storm water runoff; site is located in a heavily industrialized area. There are 152 citizens on site mailing list.
- ! Site Repository: Moore Memorial Library, 1701 Ninth Avenue North, Texas City, TX 77590

Technical Assistance Grant

- ! Availability Notice: 9/89, Re-advertised 8/90
- ! Letters of Intent Received:
 - 1) Tex Tin Area Citizens Group - 12/2/89 (withdrawn 8/90)
 - 2) Environmental Protection Advisory Group - 2/28/92
 - 3) RESPECT - 7/19/99; RESPECT did not send in TAG application.
 - 4) Lee Subdivision Homeowners Association - 8/26/99, asked for extension 9/10/99; sent in application 10/13/99.
 - 5) RESPECT - 5/3/00
- ! LOI News Paper Notice: 7/24/99; 5/28/00
- ! First Final Application Received: 12/92 - no action finalized.
- ! Second Final Application: Lee Subdivision Homeowners Association on 10/13/99. Application was deficient and needed corrections. Application rejected on 4/00.
- ! Grant Award:
- ! Current Status: RESPECT's application due to EPA by 7/27/00.

Contacts

- ! **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Carlos A. Sanchez, 214-665-8507, Mail Code: 6SF-AP
- ! **On Scene Coordinator: Warren Zehner, 281-983-2229, Mail Code; 6SF-R2**
- ! **EPA Region 6 Ombudsman:** Arnie Ondarza, 214/665-6790, 6SF
- ! **State Contact:** (TNRCC) Luda Voskov, 512/239-6368, Mail Code 143
- ! **Community Coordinator (EPA):** Donn Walters, 214-665-6483, Mail Code: 6SF-P
- ! **Attorney (EPA):** Pam Travis. 214-665-8056, Mail Code: 6SF-DL
- ! **State Coordinator (EPA):** Karen A. Bond, 214-665-6682, Mail Code: 6SF-AP

! Prime Contractor: CH2M Hill (Feasibility Study)

Enforcement

- !** One Hundred thirty (130) PRPs have been identified for the site.
- !** Administrative Order on Consent was signed on March 30, 1990 with site PRPs to conduct the remedial investigation and feasibility study. Only the remedial investigation was conducted.
- !** EPA is currently in mediation discussions with a group of PRPs to conduct the Remedial Design and Remedial Action for the facility, Operable Unit No. 1.

Present Status and Issues

- !** In June 1998, Amoco completed cleanup activities for Parcel H (Amoco Property) of the Tex Tin site. Parcel H has been designated as Operable Unit No. 2 of the Tex Tin site.
- !** The site has been re-proposed for listing on the NPL. The Tex Tin site was finalized on the NPL on September 18, 1998.
- !** EPA release the Proposed Plan for the industrial site, Operable Unit No. 1, on September 9, 1998. The initial 30-day public comment period ran from September 9, 1998, through October 9, 1998. A request to extend the public comment period was submitted and the comment period was extended an additional 30 days and ended on November 9, 1998. EPA has evaluated and responded to comments submitted during the public comment period. Respond to comments are included in the Responsiveness Summary for the Record of Decision. The Record of Decision for the facility, Operable Unit No. 1, was signed by the Regional Administrator on May 17, 1999.
- !** Removal activities for the residential removal action in LaMarque, Texas, started in March 1999 for Operable Unit No. 3 of the Tex Tin site. The residential removal action was completed at the end of June 1999.
- !** As a result of negotiations with a group of PRPs, EPA is amending the remedy selected for OU No.1. The Amended Proposed Plan was release to the public on March 7, 2000. EPA conducted the 30-day public comment period from March 7, 2000 through April 5, 2000. During the public comment period, EPA held a public meeting on March 23, 2000 to receive verbal and written comments from the community. EPA will evaluated all comments received during the public comment period before making a final decision on the amended remedy for OU No. 1. EPA plans to sign the Amended Record of Decision for the site in June 2000.

Benefits

- !** Cleanup of site contaminants would address the threat of potential site and off-site contamination to public health (workers/community) and the environment (ground water and surface water). A minority community is located approximately 2,000 feet from the site and approximately 3,500 people live within a mile radius of the site. Addressing the source

contamination would significantly reduce or prevent future migration of site contaminants to the shallow ground water. After site remediation, most of the 170-acre site could be used for future industrial development.

- ! The cleanup in the residential areas was conducted to meet residential health standards so that these areas can continued to be use for residential purposes.